

ABSTRACT

To generating a mosaic image by combining a plurality of material images, an original image is divided into tiles and a material image having a characteristic similar to that 5 of an image in each tile is applied to the tile. If more than one version of image data having different resolutions is provided as the image data for the material image, a low-resolution version of the image data is used to calculate a characteristic quantity of the image. Thus, 10 the amount of time required to generate the mosaic image can be reduced.